

CAREER PREPARATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEA ASSESSMENT

The Workforce Education Team recommends assessing Career Preparation standards and performance indicators through a variety of performance assessment tasks built around the following:

1. We recommend assessing student performance through a Portfolio process which is State developed, State reported, locally administered, locally scored, and State audited. (See Recommendations for MEA Assessment dated May 21, 1999.)
2. We recommend that the current MEA State administered test be reviewed to determine whether Career Preparation performance indicators are currently covered as test items within other content areas in such a way that they may be double scored, thus yielding a Career Preparation score. This method would be State developed, State reported, State administered, and State scored.
3. We recommend that some Career Preparation performance indicators be formed into specific Career Preparation extended response test items which will be added to the State administered MEA. These items would be State developed, State reported, State administered and State scored. (See Recommendations for MEA Assessment dated May 21, 1999.)
4. We recommend assessing student performance through on demand presentations, demonstrations and/or exhibitions which are State developed, State reported, locally administered, locally scored, and State audited. (See Recommendations for MEA Assessment dated May 21, 1999.)

Rationale

In our deliberations about assessing Career Preparation, we have come to recognize that Career Preparation does not lend itself to traditional paper and pencil testing. Although some elements of Career Preparation can be assessed with traditional paper and pencil techniques, our conclusion was that performance assessment is the best approach. "Performance assessment techniques include the following:

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| ✓ Projects - | ✓ Essays - |
| ✓ Group Projects - | ✓ Experiments - |
| ✓ Interviews/oral presentations - | ✓ Demonstrations - |
| ✓ Constructed-response questions - | ✓ Portfolios - |

Given the variety of techniques used to assess performance, it is clear that our recommendations for MEA assessment of Career Preparation utilize many of these.

As the Career Preparation Design Team begins to address these recommendations, we have chosen to begin with the performance indicators identified with a portfolio assessment process. For our purposes, we have chosen to utilize the process being promoted by the Maine Assessment Portfolio (MAP) pilot project. MAP gives us a process for portfolio assessment which many Maine teachers know and understand. Also, MAP utilizes rubrics and performance tasks which are linked to standards in Maine's Learning Results.

The Workforce Education Team and the Career Preparation Design Team would develop and field test a number of performance tasks to assess the validity and reliability of the tasks, their associated rubrics and what the results would look like in a student's portfolio. The result of this process would be the identification of anchor tasks that would be recommended for inclusion in Maine's MEA.